

REMARKS

Claim 40 stands allowed. Claims 10-20 and 24-39 stand allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 1-3, 5-7, and 21-23 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Comny et al., U.S. patent 6,101,480. Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Comny et al., in view of Hotaling et al., U.S. patent 5,124,912. Claims 8 and 9 stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Comny et al., in view of Zweben et al., U.S. patent 6,216,109.

Claims 6-8, 10-12, 15, 18, 22-26, 29, and 30 have been amended to more clearly state the invention. Indicated allowed claims 10, 15, 24, and 26 have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 6-9, 11-14, 16-20, 22-23, 25, and 27-39, as amended depend from respective rewritten independent claims 10, 15, 24, and 26. Claims 1-5 and 21 have been cancelled. Thus, each of the pending claims 6-20, and 22-40, as amended, is believed to stand in condition for allowance.

Applicants have reviewed all the art of record, and respectfully submit that the claimed invention is patentable over all the art of record, including the references not relied upon by the Examiner for the rejection of the pending claims.

It is believed that the present application is now in condition for allowance and allowance of each of the pending claims 6-20, and 22-40, as amended, is respectfully requested. Prompt and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

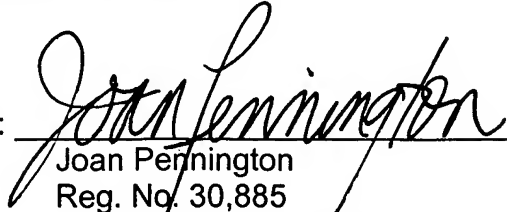
If the Examiner upon considering this amendment should find that a

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telephone interview would be helpful in expediting allowance of the present application, the Examiner is respectfully urged to call the applicants' attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

By:


Joan Pennington
Reg. No. 30,885
Telephone: (312) 670-0736